

175-8304/17

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13 SEP 1975

The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatfield:

Thank you for your letter of August 26th. I regret your reaction to press reports about any relationship between CIA and church groups and members of the clergy. I received somewhat similar letters from

the U. S. Catholic Mission Council. I am sure you would be interested in the exchange between us, although I request that you respect the confidence of these letters unless released

As indicated in the attached letters, I believe that it would be neither necessary nor appropriate to bar any connection between CIA and the clergy and the churches. In many countries of the world representatives of the clergy, foreign and local, play a significant role and can be of assistance to the United States through CIA with no reflection upon their integrity nor their mission. The taint to which you refer stems, I believe, more from the sensational publicity recently about CIA than from the nature of the contact we may have with such individuals. Thus, I believe that any sweeping prohibition such as you suggest would be a mistake and impose a handicap on this Agency which would reduce its future effectiveness to a degree not warranted by the real facts of the situation.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby
Director

Attachments